2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education

Submitted by Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present paper is to build on the working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.17), submitted to the Third Preparatory Committee for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden.

2. Disarmament and non-proliferation education can ensure the continuation of institutional knowledge, and assist those working on NPT issues to understand the Treaty and its regime as a whole. Furthermore, it will assist NPT States parties in increasing awareness of new and all dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and inform the public of actions being carried out by Governments, diplomats and international institutions to this end.

II. Recommendations

3. Co-sponsor countries:

(a) Recognize that education on disarmament and non-proliferation is important to make progress towards the full implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under the NPT;

(b) Underline the importance of the recommendations in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

(c) Stress that the successful implementation of the United Nations study recommendations will require an active partnership among national governments, regional and international organizations, academic institutions and civil society;

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(d) Encourage States parties to make efforts in the following areas, among others:

(i) To support disarmament and non-proliferation education activities of the United Nations, regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions and the media, in pursuit of their implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;

(ii) To develop, enhance and support disarmament and non-proliferation activities and educational and training courses in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions and the media, in the public as well as the private sector, including the provision of fellowships, internship programmes and on-the-job training;

(iii) To prepare, adapt and disseminate user-friendly disarmament and non-proliferation education materials, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions, the nuclear industry and the media, to audiences at all education levels through translation and the use of new technologies, including electronic means;

(iv) To cooperate with academic institutions to develop model curriculum materials addressing the issues and consequences of proliferation and the importance of disarmament, and provide the opportunity for government officials and parliamentarians to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki museums and libraries, with a particular emphasis on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons to increase awareness of the real dangers they pose;

(v) To designate a focal point for disarmament and non-proliferation education and training and to inform the Department for Disarmament Affairs on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study;

(e) Call upon the Conference, drawing on the points outlined in this paper, to encourage States parties to undertake concrete activities to implement, as appropriate, the United Nations study recommendations and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to this end.